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SPORTSDAY



Venus makes an early exit in Paris

With a dozen double faults and 75 unforced errors, Venus Williams (above) was knocked out of the French Open in the fourth round by Russian teenager Vera Zvonareva. The loss ends a run of four consecutive major finals pitting Williams against her younger sister, Serena, who won all four. **1C**

Sorenstam wins in return to LPGA

Annika Sorenstam breezed to a three-stroke victory at the Kellogg-Keebler Classic in her first LPGA event since her history-making turn at the Colonial. **1C**



INSIDE

House, Senate pass budget's final version

Both chambers passed the final version of the 2004-05 state budget, a \$117.4 billion spending plan with cuts to health care services and education to make up a \$9.9 billion shortfall. **4A**

A transportation bill allows the state to raise billions for road projects partly through fees levied against bad drivers. **1B**

Both chambers passed legislation limiting the damages injured people can recover from lawsuits against health care providers and making it tougher for plaintiffs to pursue class-action lawsuits. **1D**

Austin's 11th-hour rush

Lawmakers pass ethics, tuition bills; special session may be avoided

By **CHRISTY HOPPE**
Austin Bureau

AUSTIN — In the last hours of the legislative session, state leaders scurried through the Capitol on Sunday like a team of emergency doctors trying to save important patients. They managed to resuscitate a dead ethics bill, transplant money and supply oxygen to a college tuition deregulation plan.

Leaders and their staffs huddled with lawmakers into the evening, working out compromises and lending their muscle to deals that helped pass a budget, tighten

ethics rules, let colleges set their own tuition rates and create a multistate lottery game.

The Legislature juggled more than 150 bills on Sunday — about a dozen of them significant pieces of legislation designed to raise hundreds of millions of dollars and drastically trim social services. The state budget hinged on agreements tucked into some of the measures.

The last-minute, do-or-die workings of this legislative session were heightened by Democrats. They voiced skepticism whenever important legislation fell sick, saying they feared the governor was looking for an excuse to call a special session to reconsider a Repub-

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Session produces new items that you'll notice

By **MATT STILES**
Staff Writer

AUSTIN — Texans still will have to watch out for motorists chatting on mobile phones, but at least they shouldn't be talking to telemarketers.

Lone Star wine purchases remain outlawed on the Internet, but cities will have an easier time lifting alcohol restrictions.

In schools, children will have to observe a minute of silence each day and say the Pledge of

Allegiance, and they'll be able to take the bus to grandma's house after school.

Such is a sampling of the work from this year's legislative session, which ends Monday.

Despite a nearly \$10 billion shortfall and the Democrats' late-session jaunt to Ardmore, Okla., lawmakers found time to pass dozens of measures that ordinary folks should notice.

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Bush, Chirac looking for common ground at G-8 summit



LAURENT REBOURS/Associated Press

French President Jacques Chirac greets President Bush at the Group of Eight summit in Evian, France. They agreed Sunday to set aside differences over Iraq and pursue aid for developing countries and African AIDS victims. (Related story, 9A.)

Greener pastures for area workers?

Peer cities showing more signs of economic recovery than D-FW

By **ANGELA SHAH**
Staff Writer

Stan Gasway admits part of the reason he moved to Chicago is its singular quality of life.

But he also had serious concerns about the health of the economy in Dallas, where he lived for four years. "I couldn't find a job here, and I got a great job in Chicago," he said. "The business climate looks very strong in comparison to Dallas."

Now, economists are wondering if Mr. Gasway represents a trickle that could turn into a deluge.

Recent labor data show that Dallas' peer cities, including Chicago, are showing signs of life after a punishing economic downturn that is now in its third year. While none of them are breaking hard away from the pack — indeed, the gains are marked by barely-there contractions or slight moves into positive territory — there is some movement forward. In the meantime, Dallas' workforce remains solidly in a contraction mode.

And while it's not surprising that different metro economies don't bounce back at the same time, some local economists worry about the consequences if Dallas falls even further behind.

"It's all about relative positioning," said Lyssa Jenkins, chief economist at the Greater Dallas Chamber. "I'm anxious, because if

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NATIONAL

Some voice support for bombing suspect

While agents try to piece together how serial bombing suspect Eric Robert Rudolph — accused in the explosion at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta and in attacks on abortion clinics — eluded them, some in the rural area where he was found openly support him. **8A**

METROPOLITAN

Abandoned tots' mom surrenders to police

Christy Leann Radacy, accused of leaving her twin toddlers in a busy Lake Worth roadway last week, turned herself in Sunday. **1B**

Accused priest resigns

Monsignor Ernesto C. Villaroya, accused of raping a nun 20 years ago, resigned Sunday from his Frisco parish. **1B**

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Storms likely

WFAA High: 88
Low: 66
5-day outlook on 10B

III+
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U.S., Russia affirm 'partnership'

2 leaders agree on Iraq aid and nuke threats, but issues remain

By **DAVID JACKSON**
Washington Bureau

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia — President Bush and Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin sought Sunday to jump-start



Vladimir Putin

their "strategic partnership," which had stalled over Mr. Putin's objections to the war in Iraq.

Holding their first summit since the invasion, the two leaders agreed to help rebuild Iraq and work to

keep nuclear weapons away from North Korea and Iran, although the arms issue has provoked something of a disagreement.

With the United States pressuring Russia to stop helping Iran construct a nuclear reactor, Mr. Putin said that U.S. allegations that Iran would use the plant to develop nuclear weapons should not wind up hurting Russian businesses that only

want to supply the country with electricity.

Still, the presidents said their relationship — which analysts warn still faces many potential obstacles — seems as solid as ever.

"I must say that the fundamentals between the United States and Russia turned out to

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Mexico awakens to rising political star

López Obrador is leftist party's hope for presidency in 2006

By **RICARDO SANDOVAL**
and **LAURENCE ILIFF**
Mexico Bureau

MEXICO CITY — At 6 a.m. Mexico City is still asleep: Not even the massive flag that dominates the capital's historic central square has been hoisted.

Yet it is already prime time for Andrés Manuel López Obrador, mayor to 8.5 million people. Sunday through Friday the mayor begins work with his signa-

ture early-morning news conference.

"How are you?" the mayor asked journalists at the start of a recent pre-dawn news briefing. With a quiet barb about their sleep habits, he launched into a machine gun-fast rundown of his week's agenda.

Three years into Mr. López Obrador's term, reporters still are not accustomed to the early wake-up call. But they and the rest of Mexico are awakening to the mayor's understated charm and Harry Truman-like populism.

Once a rising star in the former ruling Institutional Revolu-



EVA ALVAREZ PRIETO/Special Contributor

Many consider Mexico City Mayor Andrés Manuel López Obrador the nation's most popular politician.

tionary Party, or PRI, Mr. López Obrador is considered by many

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Science's big unknown: downside to downsizing

In an ever-smaller world, nanotech may be outpacing safety studies

By **ALEXANDRA WITZE**
Science Writer

The smaller science gets, the bigger its problems may grow.

In the rush to embrace nanotechnology, a booming field that builds ultratiny devices out of atoms and molecules, researchers have run into a major and unexpected concern: whether such "nanomaterials" might harm human health or the environment.

Over the last few months, some scientists have begun to argue for a slowdown. They don't want nanotechnology to fall prey to the pub-

lic disapproval that doomed other once-promising ideas.

Nano-engineered objects are tinier than tiny, measuring on the scale of a nanometer, or billionth of a meter — about the same size compared with a person as an ant is compared with Texas. But these small materials, visible only through a microscope, may have a big, bad impact.

Recent studies have shown that carbon nanotubes, one of nanotechnology's most hyped materials, may harm the lungs of rodents. Other work indicates that nano-

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